

brown; no tinge of fulvous on the middle of the belly. Wing 1·9–2·2, tail 1·7–2·05 inches.

3. *CRYPTOLOPIA INTERMEDIA* La Touche, sp. n.

Near *C. tephrocephala* (Anders.) and *C. affinis* (Hodgs.). Differs from the former in having a much shorter bill, and the secondary coverts distinctly tipped with pale yellow, forming a well-marked bar; from *C. affinis* it differs in having a ring of feathers round the eye, yellow. Wing 2·2–2·3 inches.

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the excellent regulations made by Capt. A. H. Cowie, R.E., M.B.O.U., for the preservation of the wild birds in Wolmer Forest, as Hon. Sec. of the Aldershot Game-Preserving Association. All Hawks, Owls, and other birds were preserved as far as possible, and no guns were allowed to be carried by the gamekeepers. The heronry in Wolmer Forest had increased under Capt. Cowie's influence from one or two nests to nearly 20, and about 50 young birds were reared in 1897.

The announcement of the unexpected death of Mr. DANIEL MEINERTZHAGEN on 13th inst., at the age of 22, was received with regret. He was one of the last-elected Members of the B.O.U., and the latest recruit to the B.O.C.

XXVI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 173.]

27. *Beal on Common American Birds.*

[Some Common Birds in their Relation to Agriculture. By F. E. L. Beal. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmer's Bulletin, No. 54. 1897.]

The author begins with the remark that there seems a tendency to dwell upon the harm birds do to agriculture rather than on the good. He proceeds to make out good cases for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, several of the Woodpeckers, the King-bird, and the Phœbe; while he can plead many

extenuating circumstances in favour of the Blue Jay, Crow, Bobolink, Red-winged Starling (which the Duke of Argyll tried to introduce into this country), and many others. Illustrations are given of nearly all these species, lest any finding them should slay them. As one of the 'Farmers' Friends and Foes' serials, this carefully drawn-up pamphlet must prove useful in the United States.

28. *Blaauw on the Reproduction of the Rufous Tinamou in Captivity.*

[Notes sur la Reproduction du *Tinamou roux* en captivité en Hollande. Par F. E. Blaauw. Bull. Soc. Nat. d'Acclim. France, Dec. 1897.]

The Rufous Tinamou (*Tinamotis rufescens*) is a bird always to be commended to those who are wishing to try experiments in what is called "acclimatization"; and Mr. Blaauw now gives us a lively account of his experiences in breeding it, as he has succeeded in doing for the last three years. The male, as is well known (*cf.* Bartlett, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 687), performs the incubation and takes charge of the young birds; while the hen, as soon as the eggs are laid, wanders off to find another mate.

29. *Büttikofer on Stoparola concreta.*

[On the Identity of *Stoparola concreta* with *Siphia cyanea*. By Dr. J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xviii. p. 221.]

Dr. Büttikofer has convinced himself that *Muscicapa concreta* Müller, from Sumatra, is the same as *Muscitrea cyanea* Hume (= *Siphia cyanea* Sharpe, Ibis, 1890, p. 366), from Tenasserim and Malacca. The former specific name has priority.

30. *Campbell on Nests and Eggs of Australian Accipitres.*

[Nests and Eggs of the Australian Accipitres, or Diurnal Birds of Prey. By A. J. Campbell. Rep. Australian Assoc. Adv. Sci., Brisbane, 1895.]

This memoir, prepared for the meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Brisbane

in 1895, contains concise descriptions of the nests and eggs of the Diurnal Birds of Prey of Australia, all of which, save one, are now more or less known. Mr. Campbell, no doubt correctly, places the Accipitres as "among the most useful" of the native birds in Australia.

### 31. *Cory on North-American Birds.*

[How to Know the Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America. 4to. Boston, 1897.

How to Know the Shore-Birds (*Limicolæ*) of North America (South of Greenland and Alaska). By Charles B. Cory. 4to. Boston, 1897.]

These are little more than illustrated pamphlets, so far as mere size goes, for the former consists of only 95 pages, and the latter of only 89; but the matter is excellent. The plan of grouping the species according to size and colour presents many inconveniences and incongruities; for instance, the Hooded Merganser finds itself in Group 3, with Teal, Tree-Ducks, Scaups, and the Long-tailed Duck, merely on account of its size. The descriptions, or rather diagnoses, of the various species are, however, remarkably lucid; while the illustrations (chiefly of the heads, but sometimes of the whole bird, among the *Limicolæ*) render identification easy. These are books of a kind that we are glad to have at hand for reference.

### 32. *Evans (H. M.) on British Birds.*

[Status of Birds in the British Isles and in Devonshire. By H. M. Evans. 8vo. Plymouth, 1897.]

In compiling this pamphlet of 30 pages the author has employed his time, with some advantage to himself, in sorting the species of birds in the British list into Residents, Summer and Winter Visitors, Stragglers, Rarities, and Occasional Wanderers. To the credit of Devon, he shows that four-fifths of the total number have occurred in his county. He has evidently taken much pains with his work, and we are sure that he now knows a great deal more about birds than he did when he began to write.

33. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Part CXXXVIII. (Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.)]

The completion of the second volume of the Birds of the 'Biologia' was announced in our last notice of this great work (see *Ibis*, 1897, p. 462). We have now before us the first portion of the third volume, mainly occupied by the Owls, in treating of which the arrangement adopted in the 'Nomenclator' is closely followed. One species of *Strix* is the only representative of the Strigidæ in Central America; while of the more numerous Asionidæ no fewer than 32 species are recognized as coming within the limits of the work. These are referred to ten genera; *Scops*, with eleven species, being the most numerous. Excellent coloured figures are given of *Syrnium fulvescens* and *Scops trichopsis*.

Next to the Owls comes the Osprey, which Mr. Salvin places at the head of the Order *Accipitres*: he does not separate the American form from *Pandion haliaëtus* of the Old World.

34. *Hartert on Birds from Savu.*

[On the Birds collected by Mr. Everett on the Island of Savu. By Ernst Hartert. *Nov. Zool.* iv. p. 263.]

The little island of Savu, situated between Rotti and Sumba, was visited by Cook in his first voyage (see vol. ii. p. 258, 8vo edition, 1821), but does not seem to have been explored by any recent traveller except Riedel, who has written on its ethnology. Mr. Everett arrived there in August 1896, and stayed a month, but gives a poor account of the island. The birds which he obtained are referred by Mr. Hartert to 51 species, none of which are peculiar; the avifauna of Savu is, in fact, the same as that of Timor. *Gerygone everetti*, which Mr. Hartert in the present paper describes as new, occurs also in Timor.

35. *Hartert on Honey-eaters and other Birds from New Guinea.*

[On some *Meliphagide* and other Birds from New Guinea. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. iv. p. 369.]

In a collection recently received at Tring four interesting Honey-eaters are represented, from an elevation of from 5000 to 6000 feet, between Mount Musgrave and Mount Scratchley. One of them Mr. Hartert describes as new and calls *Ptilotis præcipua*. He also remarks that *Neopsittacus viridiceps* De Vis (Ibis, 1897, p. 371) is the same as his *N. pullicauda*.

36. *Hartlaub on the Birds of China.*

[Ein dritter Beitrag zur Ornithologie Chinas. Von Dr. G. Hartlaub in Bremen. Abh. nat. Ver. Bremen, xiv. p. 341, 1897.]

Our veteran and much-esteemed associate, Dr. Hartlaub, writes on the birds obtained in China by the well-known German collector, Gerhard Philipp Schmacker, lately deceased. These have been presented to the Bremen Museum, and consist of about 750 skins referable to some 250 species. The greater part are from Shanghai, but many were obtained in Hainan, Formosa, and other localities.

After interesting remarks on recent ornithological workers in China, and a useful account of their publications, Dr. Hartlaub gives a systematic list of the species represented in Schmacker's collection—275 in all—and such remarks as are called for on each of them. *Garrulax schmackeri*, a fine new species from the interior of Hainan, is described and figured. The collection contained a single example of the curious Wader, *Eurynorhynchus pygmæus* from Hoihow.

37. *Harvie-Brown and Barrington on Rockall Island.*

[On the Ornithology of Rockall. By J. A. Harvie-Brown, F.R.S.E., F.Z.S., and Richard M. Barrington, LL.B., F.L.S. Trans. R. Irish Ac. xxxi. part iii. pp. 66-75.]

On the expedition to this granitic peak, the Rock was sighted on June 6th, 1896, but the weather was unfavourable. A second visit was made on June 15th, but landing was

impossible. On the Rockall bank nineteen species of birds were identified, all of them marine, except a Dunlin; while the population of the Rock consisted, at a rough guess, of 250 Guillemots, 30 Puffins, 50 immature Kittiwakes, 10 Gannets (8 immature), and possibly 1 or 2 Razorbills. Numbers of Great Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis* O'Reilly, formerly better known as *P. major* Faber) were observed on the Bank in the month of June, as well as many Manx Shearwaters; but the former species certainly was not breeding there. Its summer habitat is in the Southern hemisphere, but it annually frequents the North Atlantic between May and September (the winter months of the south), and of the thousands taken for bait on the coasts of the Bay of Fundy not one was ever found to show any indication of breeding. The evidence on this point is given at considerable length; and a list is added of the birds observed on the expedition.

### 38. Helms on Birds from East Greenland.

[Ornithologiske Iagttagelser fra Angmagsalik, Öst-Grönland, af J. Petersen. Meddelte af O. Helms. Vidensk. Meddel. fra den naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. 1898, p. 169.]

The author writes on the birds collected and observations made by Hr. Johan Petersen in the neighbourhood of Angmagsalik, in East Greenland, during the three years 1895-7. Twenty-seven species are enumerated and commented upon. Eight of them are Passeres.

### 39. Hurdis on the Birds of the Bermudas.

[Rough Notes and Memoranda relating to the Natural History of the Bermudas, by the late John L. Hurdis. Edited by his Daughter, H. J. Hurdis. 8vo. London: R. H. Porter, 1897.]

Miss H. J. Hurdis has edited and published the rough notes and memoranda relating to the Natural History of the Bermudas made by her father, the late John L. Hurdis, Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws in those islands, from 1846 to 1854. Some 300 out of the 408 pages relate to Birds, of which Mr. Hurdis was, as is well known, a most diligent and enthusiastic observer. The volume is dedicated

to the memory of the late Col. Drummond-Hay; and frequent mention will be found in it of the names of Wedderburn, Tristram, Orde, and John Matthew Jones, author of 'The Naturalist in Bermuda,' in whose work some of these notes have already appeared. Miss Hurdis appears to be unacquainted with Capt. Savile G. Reid's excellent memoir on the Birds of Bermuda (1884), published in the Bulletin of the U.S. National Museum; and her interesting volume is rather out of date in scientific value.

40. *Hutton on the Moas of the North Island of New Zealand.*

[The Moas of the North Island of New Zealand. By Capt. F. W. Hutton, F.R.S. Trans. N.Z. Inst. xxix. p. 540 (1896).]

Capt. Hutton gives us here a revision of the Moas of the North Island of New Zealand, to which he has lately paid special attention, having examined most of the specimens in the New Zealand collections. He now concurs generally with the nomenclature used by Mr. Lydekker, but prefers to use the term *Euryapteryx* instead of *Emeus*. It appears that most of the genera of Dinornithidæ are represented in both the North and South Islands, while "nearly all the species of each island are distinct." Capt. Hutton therefore concludes that the "two islands of New Zealand were separated from each other after the development of most of the genera, but before the development of the species."

The species of Moas recognized by the author as represented in the North Island are eleven, which are referred to six genera—*Dinornis*, *Megalapteryx*, *Anomalornis*, *Cela*, *Euryapteryx*, and *Pachyornis*—besides two of uncertain position. *Anomalornis* is proposed as a new name in place of *Anomalopteryx*, preoccupied in entomology.

41. *Macpherson on Fowling.*

[A History of Fowling, being an Account of the many curious Devices by which Wild Birds are or have been captured in different parts of the World. By the Rev. H. A. Macpherson, M.A. 4to. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1897.]

We congratulate the author upon the production of an

admirable work, and one which must have cost him immense labour as well as research. Devices to snare birds date back to the earliest times ; but in civilized communities they have gone out of fashion since the invention and perfection of firearms. Their employment is generally considered as rather low, and even as not legitimate, especially when they interfere (as in the case of grouse-netting) with what the user of a gun looks upon as his prerogative. Apart from the question of "game," there can be no doubt that fowling may at times lead to a very serious diminution in the number of interesting as well as useful birds ; and it seems important that legislation should interfere, at least so far as to prohibit the capture of birds during or dangerously near their breeding-time. In this country fowling is chiefly confined to certain classes ; but on the Continent it is still pursued as a pastime by persons of good position, especially in Belgium, and above all in Italy. To show how this acts, we may quote a Signor Fucini, who naïvely remarks (p. 82) :—"The Shrikes, now comparatively rare, were at one time extremely common. I remember that when I was a boy I used to catch them with limed twigs and the mole-cricket, and one could take forty or fifty in a day." If *one* boy could do this, even for the fortnight of passage, small wonder that the Butcher-bird is now rarer than it was. Mr. Macpherson goes through the list of birds *seriatim*, beginning with the Corvidæ and working through the Passerine birds ; he shows that the Picariæ are less exempt from pursuit than might be supposed ; he describes Parrot-fowling ; and we leave the perusal of the chapters relating to sport with the Owls under the conviction that a great deal of ornithology may be learned by setting-up a *Civetta* or an Eagle-Owl and watching the behaviour of the species which come to mob them. We are not surprised to hear that the interest in this branch is increasing, and there is quite an extensive trade in Owls. And when the decoy-bird dies, he can be served up as a dainty dish (see p. 167) ! With the capture of Hawks and the use of the Shrike we are more familiar ; Gannet-catching is not unknown ; while the taking of waterfowl, the subject of decoys, and the devices to circumvent game-



birds have also been written upon ; but as to all these items the author gives us a vast amount of information which has never been put together before. No one can have an idea of how good a book this is until he has read it through. It is also profusely illustrated, many of the head-pieces being reproductions of quaint old engravings, while the vignettes are often of great beauty and artistic merit. The frontispiece is after a picture by Lancret, representing two men engrossed with the management of their clap-nets, while two young ladies are taking a sentimental interest in the operation, and two others are displaying that superb indifference to the whole affair which may be seen, multiplied a thousand fold, at any Eton and Harrow match. But they are not wearing hats with feathers, and in no way interfere with the enjoyment of others.

#### 42. *North on the Nesting of three Australian Birds.*

[Descriptions of the Nests and Eggs of three Species of Australian Birds. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, 1897, p. 56.]

Mr. North describes the nests and eggs of *Cracticus rufescens* De Vis, *Sphenura broadbenti*, and *Dendrocycgna eytoni*. It appears from what is stated to be by no means as yet definitely certain that *Cracticus rufescens* is different from *C. quoyi* ; at any rate it seems that in adult male plumage *C. rufescens* is black.

#### 43. *Oates's Game-Birds of India.*

[A Manual of the Game-Birds of India. Part I. Land-Birds. By Eugene W. Oates. 12mo. Bombay, 1898.]

This handy little volume will, we have no doubt, be acceptable to the many "gunners" resident in India, who would like to know something more about the birds they shoot for sport and "the pot" than their mere ordinary names. The present part is devoted to the land-birds, leaving the water-birds to be treated of in a second volume. It contains an account of the Sand-Grouse, Hemipodes, Gallinaceous birds, Megapodes, and Bustards: altogether 88

species. Of each of these a short but sufficient description is given, as well as an excellent summary of what is known of range and habits. The accomplished author, who has worked so long and so well on Indian ornithology, has evidently bestowed great care and attention on this little work.

Mr. Oates characterizes three new species of Silver-Pheasants in the present volume—*Gennæus williamsi* from Upper Burmah, *G. sharpii* from the hills between Burmah and Siam, and *G. rufipes* from the Ruby-Mines district of Burmah. We are pleased to see that he does not succumb to the attempt made in the 22nd volume of the B. M. Catalogue of Birds to change the name of the Impeyan Pheasant, and is able to give excellent reasons why this deviation from ordinary usage should not be followed.

#### 44. *Pavesi on Pavian Birds.*

[Calendario Ornitologico Pavesi 1893-95 del Prof. Pietro Pavesi. Boll. Scientifico, Pavia, 1895.]

The records of the Pavia district for the above three years contain nothing very remarkable; a Little Egret, some varieties of the Jay, and some interesting Rails and Ducks being among the most notable.

#### 45. *Saunders's 'Manual of British Birds.'*

[An Illustrated Manual of British Birds. Second Edition, revised. By Howard Saunders. Parts I.-V. 8vo. London.]

The issue of a revised and augmented edition was commenced last November. The additional articles published are on *Sylvia subalpina*, *Phylloscopus proregulus*, *P. viridanus*, and *Hypolais polyglotta*; while new illustrations are given of *Phylloscopus superciliosus*, *Hypolais icterina*, *Acrocephalus streperus*, *A. palustris*, and *Anthus cervinus*. Part V. nearly completes the Finches.

#### 46. *Schalow on the Avifauna of Antartcis.*

[Ueber die Vogelfauna des Südpolargebietes. Vortrag gehalten am 29. Mai 1897 zu Dresden. Von Herman Schalow. J. f. O. 1897, p. 524.]

This is an interesting disquisition on the birds of the South Polar Continent (so far as they are yet known to us), and contains many useful pieces of collateral information gathered from all sides. Herr Schalow counts 20 species of birds hitherto recognized as belonging to the avifauna of Antaretis—a result which does not differ materially from that lately arrived at by Sclater (*Ibis*, 1894, p. 494). Of these only three seem, so far as we know, to be absolutely restricted to Antaretis, namely, *Stercorarius maccormicki*, *Aptenodytes forsteri*, and *Pygoscelis adeliae*.

47. *Schalow on the Avifauna of Juan Fernandez.*

[Ueber die Vogelfauna von Juan Fernandez. Von Herman Schalow. Sitzungsber. Gesell. naturf. Freunde Berlin, 1897, no. 5.]

Herr Schalow takes the occasion of receiving some specimens obtained by Prof. Plate on Juan Fernandez to review what is known of the ornithology of that island (*Mas-á-tierra*) and its adjacent satellite, *Mas-á-fuera* (*cf.* Sclater, *Ibis*, 1871, p. 178, and Salvin, *Ibis*, 1875, p. 370). Twenty species of birds are now known from these two islands. Two of these are found only on *Mas-á-tierra*, and three are restricted to *Mas-á-fuera*. The remainder are species of the Patagonian subregion.

48. *Schönland on the Nesting of a South-African Hornbill.*

[Nesting-habits of *Tockus melanoleucus* Licht. By Dr. S. Schönland. Trans. S. African Phil. Soc. ix. p. 1.]

Dr. Schönland gives many further and more exact details than have been previously published upon the singular nesting-habits of the Pied Hornbill of South Africa (*Tockus melanoleucus*). This bird is common in the gardens of Grahamstown during the winter, and in summer resorts to the "wooded kloofs" in the neighbouring country to breed. Dr. Schönland has been able to examine seven nests during the past few years, and gives diagrams of two varieties of nests observed. His opinion is that the female has more to do than the male with plastering up the entrance, which is always reduced to a small chink.

## 49. Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes.'

[A Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes. By the late Henry Seebohm. Edited and completed (after the Author's death) by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part I. Imperial 4to. London: Henry Sotheran & Co., 1898.]

We are much pleased to have before us the first part of the long-expected 'Monograph of the Thrushes,' upon the preparation of which our late friend and colleague Henry Seebohm was engaged for many years, but which was unfortunately left unfinished at the time of his decease. Messrs. Henry Sotheran & Co., having acquired the whole stock of the work, have "secured the co-operation of Mr. Seebohm's old friend, Dr. Bowdler Sharpe," "to superintend the publication of the work on the lines indicated by the author." The plates were all drawn by Keulemans under Seebohm's eyes, and those now before us are examples of that artist's well-known talents. The work will be issued in twelve parts in imperial quarto, at intervals of two months.

The following species are figured in the first part:—*Geocichla varia*, *G. hancii*, *G. dauma*, *G. parvirostris*, *G. nilgiriensis*, *G. imbricata*, *G. horsfieldi*, *G. heinii*, *G. papuensis*, *G. cuneata*, *G. lunulata*, *G. macrorhyncha*, *G. dixonii*, *G. mollissima*, *G. spiloptera*, *G. princii*, *G. guttata*, *G. gurneyi*, *G. crossleyi*.

## 50. Vilaró on Hybrids in Poultry.

[Hybrids between the Game-cock and the Guinea-fowl. By Juan Vilaró, M.D. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. ix. p. 225, 1897.]

The pugnacity of the Game-cock is notorious, while those persons who have kept Guinea-fowls are aware that both male and female members of the genus *Numida* are of a quarrelsome and aggressive disposition. Of four hybrids (in which the father was the Game-cock), three were males, but had no spurs, while the fourth was a female; and all of them were so outrageously vicious—the hen being the worst—that they had to be destroyed. The cocks did not crow, but emitted a feeble chirping. The plumages are described in

detail, and two photogravures are given; mention is also made of two more hybrids which were sent alive to Dr. Vilaró.

51. *Wright and Coues on North-American Birds.*

[Citizen Bird: Scenes from Bird-life in plain English for Beginners. By Mabel Osgood Wright and Elliott Coues. With one hundred and eleven illustrations by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. 8vo. New York & London, 1897.]

Dr. Roy Hunter, the chief personage in this book, is a modern Mr. Barlow, who leads his Sandford, Merton, & Co. into the wilderness of the Eastern States and discourses to them of the common birds to be found therein. After convenient pauses for taking breath, the children play the well-known part of the ancient chorus and start the Doctor off again, with questions or remarks which are either preternaturally shrewd or simply idiotic. But beneath this unnecessarily irritating introductory matter there is a fund of admirable and accurate information, while many of the illustrations are beautiful.

XXVII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed “to the Editors of ‘The Ibis’”:

SIR,—All Ducks, Geese, and Swans, so far as I know, moult all their flight-feathers at once, so that they are for a time unable to fly. But the Semipalmated Goose of Australia (*Anseranas melanoleuca*), of which I have kept specimens in confinement for several years, does not share in the peculiar moult of the Anatidæ.

My birds, which are under constant observation, drop their flight-feathers gradually, so that they never lose their power of flight. They are also very arboreal in their habits. A pair which I keep in a tolerably large aviary can constantly be seen flying from perch to perch, and spend the nights and the greater part of the day, when not feeding, on perches. They are extremely fond of mud, and may be seen wading